

Catania (Sicily), Lonato (Lombardy), Aglientu (Sardinia), San Giovanni Lupatoto (Verona), District of Pesaro and Urbino, District of Foggia | Italy



Portobello di Gallura, Aglientu
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In Italy, a variety of regions have begun the process of becoming "Passive House regions," supplemented with the use of renewable energies. These efforts serve as examples for the entire Mediterranean area.

A prime example is the region of Catania, in Sicily, where the process got off the ground with a Passive House residence that reaches a net-zero energy level through the adoption of the Passive House Standard and integrated renewable energy systems. This beautiful project has received much attention in building sector and among policy makers as an affordable and solution for net-zero. A number of awareness raising events and open-door visits have heightened interest in designers, builders and the general public, sparking the planning of additional Passive House new builds and retrofits. Passive House Designer courses in the form of a dedicated master's programme are under development in Catania, ensuring that such professionals are up to the task.

In Lombardia, the same trend can be seen. In Lonato del Garda, a single family house and a social housing apartment block were recently built according Passive House Standard with renewables, representing important examples of a zero energy. The social housing project especially shows it is possible to provide low energy, low cost apartments for low incomes families. Several events for building users, designers and other stakeholders have been organised to present these beacon projects. Particularly in the single family house in Lonato, sessions were held for young students who demonstrated high interest in Passive House solutions. The buildings have also attracted the attention of the local media.

In other regions, new exemplary projects are underway. In Aglientu, Sardinia, a new Passive House entered the design phase in 2013. Interest is also evident in the district of Pesaro and Urbino as well as in Foggia.

In the aforementioned regions, policy makers are considering adding Passive House to their local building regulations and in possible tenders for new buildings and renovations in public sector. For example, in San Giovanni Lupatoto, a small town near Verona and Lonato, the municipality is building a public school according Passive House Standard whereas in Cesena, the municipality is directly involved in promoting Passive House complemented by renewables as a path towards nearly zero energy buildings.

